Selling assets of Union Carbide

1800. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 994 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that while claims of compensation for damages in respect of the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy arising out of the leakage are still pending, the Union Carbide Corporation are going ahead to sell another major business division, to diversify their assets so as to escape payment of compensation to the claimants;

(b) if so, which plants are sought to be disposed of by the Union Carbide Corporation;

(c) how much of the assets have already been disposed of by them so far; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to ensure that the assets of the Corporation are not allowed to be disposed of till the claims are settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) are reportedly planning to sell their Agricultural Product Division during the next few months (The plant in Bhopal is not stated to be covered by the proposed sale). Apart from the earlier sale of Consumer Products Division by UCC, there are reports about sale of its relatively minor business units like Metals Subsidiary and Engineering Polymers and Advanced Composites Businesses.

(d) All the information in this regard is being monitored and evaluated with a view to protecting the interests of Bhopal Gas Victims and other affected persons.

Plan to assist small scale sector

1801. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:
SHRI S. B. RAMESH BABU:
SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the causes for the sickness in the small scale sector;

(b) whether Government have any plan to assist this sector especially in marketing where they face severe competition from the giant industries;

(c) whether there is any move to earmark certain products such as soaps, plastic goods, readymade garments, etc., exclusively for the small scale sector; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to help this sector by taking over advertisement and marketing on their behalf at least till such time the industry is able to stand on its own?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A number of causes, both internal and external operating in combination or singly are responsible for sickness in the small scale sector. Some of the principal causes of sickness are: defective planning and implementation, management deficiency, inefficiency in financial control, diversion of resources, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, inadequacy of demand, shortage of raw materials, finance and other inputs and infrastructural constraints.